

## July 1 Answers

- 1) The conflict between Syria and Israel continued throughout the reign of Ahab's son Joram (aka. Jehoram). Joram got rid of his father's **pillar** to Baal, but he clung to Jeroboam's golden calves. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit led Elisha to help Joram in his struggle against Syria, and every time the Syrians laid a trap for Joram, Elisha warned him. Eventually the Syrians realized what was happening, and they surrounded the city where Elisha was staying. Elisha told his servant, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are **more** than those who are with them" (2 Kgs 6:16). Aren't you glad that we serve the God who commands the **armies** of heaven! God knows the dangers we face, and He is right there, surrounding us with His love and **protection**. Elisha struck the Syrians with blindness, and then led them five miles south to Samaria where he turned them over to Joram. Joram wanted to kill them, but Elisha insisted they "heap burning **coals**" on the Syrians by feeding them (cf. Prov 25:21–22). Once again, God was showing Joram and the people of Israel that He was the one true God. A few years later, Ben-Hadad II besieged Samaria, and Joram complained to Elisha, "All this misery is from the Lord! Why should I **wait** for the Lord any longer?" Joram was happy as long as God was **prospering** him, but when trouble came because of his sin, he was angry just like his father Ahab. Instead of repenting, Joram was ready to **kill** Elisha.